

Greg Raschio, Vice President & General Manager

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kval
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September 14, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Unlicensed Operation in the TV Broadcast Bands: ET Docket No. 04-186; Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz Band: ET Docket No. 02-380

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing on behalf of stations KVAL-DT, KPIC-DT, and KCBY-DT here in the Eugene, OR DMA regarding the potentially harmful proposal before the Federal Communications Commission that would permit the introduction of unlicensed personal and portable transmitting devices in the digital broadcast spectrum. As you know, the digital broadcast spectrum will be the sole, permanent home of television broadcasting commencing on February 17, 2009, and any interference to broadcast operations within that spectrum will result in a loss of service to over-the-air television viewers on certain channels. This is of particular concern for KPIC and KCBY as S-1 satellites that are not carried by Dish and Direct TV services and who rely on the strength of their over-the-air-signals to deliver important local news, public service, and community event information to their viewers.

The recently released results from the FCC's report, *Initial Evaluation of the Performance of Prototype TV-Band White Devices*, bear out our concerns that unlicensed personal and portable devices – such as wireless laptops, PDAs and radio-controlled toys – will interfere with DTV reception. Unlicensed device proponents contend that “sensing” technology will prevent interference arising from the use of the devices in so-called “vacant” frequencies adjacent to occupied television channels. The July 31, 2007, report, however, determined that the sample prototype devices submitted to the Commission for evaluation “do not consistently sense or detect TV broadcast or wireless microphone signals.” The tests also found that the transmitter used by the prototype device causes interference to over-the-air TV broadcasting signals. Finally, an analysis of data reported by the FCC in March shows that digital television sets could receive interference from these unlicensed devices operating on a “vacant” adjacent channel in 80-87% of a television station's coverage area.

In light of these findings, the implications for the DTV transition are enormous. Unlike analog television sets, interference to a digital television means not just a degraded picture, but no picture at all. If DTV consumers are subjected to harmful interference from these unlicensed TV band devices, all they will see is a frozen picture or blank screen, meaning an absence of television service.

kval 13 television is a Fisher station and cbs affiliate.

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Our stations are working in partnership with the NAB, Oregon Association of Broadcasters, and others to educate the public through speaking engagements and informational messages to insure that no one loses the ability to view television due to the impending transition from analog to digital transmission of over-the-air broadcast signals. We have also invested a significant amount of money upgrading our facilities for the DTV transition.

It is crucial that the successful transition from analog to digital television remain the top priority of government and industry. Every effort must be made to ensure that all viewers who rely on over-the-air signals are not left out of the digital transition because their digital TV sets receive interference from unlicensed devices. This interference is permanent and irreparable once these interfering devices are in the marketplace. Therefore, I respectfully request that the FCC proceed with the utmost caution in its rulemaking, and not allow personal and portable unlicensed transmitting devices to enter the television broadcast band until it can be demonstrated conclusively that they will not impair over-the-air digital television reception.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Raschio
Vice-President, General Manager
KVAL, KPIC, KCBY

Copy: Bill Johnstone,
Oregon Association of Broadcasters